

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08056 021739Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1835

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 8056

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, US

SUBJ: BHUTTO INFORMED OF USG POSITION CONCERNING POINTS
RAISED IN HIS LETTERS TO PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

REF: SECTO 10198

1. I SAW BHUTTO IN KARACHI ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR SAUDI ARABIA ON THE SUBJECT OF REFTEL CONTAINING YOUR LETTER TO HIM AND INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING MY ORAL REMARKS IN CONNECTION WITH PAST LETTERS FROM HIM TO YOU AND THE PRESIDENT. BHUTTO WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED TO RECEIVE THIS DIRECT COMMUNICATION FROM YOU IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THE OPPORTUNITY IT GAVE HIM TO BE UP-TO-DATE AND IN TOUCH WITH YOU JUST BEFORE VISITING SAUDI ARABIA.

2. AFTER HIS REMARKS TO ME ON THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH HAVE BEEN REPORTED SEPARATELY, I TOLD HIM THAT I WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE A NUMBER OF POINTS TO HIM IN CONNECTION WITH THESE EXCHANGES OF CORRESPONDENCE. I SAID THE EXACT PHRASEOLOGY OF THE POINTS I WAS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE HAD BEEN WORKED OUT VERY CAREFULLY AND THAT SOME OF THE POINTS TO BE COVERED WERE COMPLEX, CONTAINING IMPORTANT NUANCES. I SAID THAT IN THE INTEREST OF COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING, AND AS A KINDNESS TO HIM, IT MIGHT BE BEST THAT HE READ THE TEXT OF THESE POINTS RATHER THAN JUST LISTEN TO AN ORAL PRESENTATION FROM ME.

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3. BHUTTO READ CAREFULLY MY PREPARED TEXT WHICH HAD BEEN EXTRACTED VERBATIM FROM ABOVE REFTEL. WHEN HE FINISHED, HE TOLD ME THAT HE UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY AND WAS GLAD TO HAVE THIS MATTER SETTLED SO THAT NO FURTHER CONVERSATION ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN US WOULD BE NECESSARY. HE SAID AGAIN HE REGRETTED HAVING ACCEPTED BAD ADVICE ON HIS LETTERS TO YOU AND THE PRESIDENT GROWING OUT OF YOUR TALK WITH AZIZ AHMED IN ANKARA. I HAVE NO DOUBT BUT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD COMPLETELY THAT I WAS IN THE

PROCESS OF A NECESSARY CORRECTION OF THE RECORD.

4. BHUTTO ASKED IF HE COULD KEEP THE COPY OF MY ADDITIONAL POINTS THAT HE HAD READ. WHILE I OBVIOUSLY DO NOT WANT TO BECOME A PARTY IN HIS FRICTIONS WITH AZIZ AHMED, I GAVE HIM MY PERMISSION TO DO SO THINKING THAT THIS WOULD HELP TO SERVE TO MAKE THE RECORD COMPLETELY CLEAR FOR OUR OWN PURPOSES. THERE WAS NO DOUBT BUT THAT HE PLANNED SERIOUS DISCUSSION WITH BOTH AZIZ AHMED AND AGHA SHAHI ON THE PLANE TO SAUDI ARABIA ON BOTH YOUR LETTER AND MY ADDITIONAL POINTS.

5. YOU MAY REST ASSURED, HOWEVER, THAT BHUTTO HOLDS NO RESENTMENT AT US ON THE ISSUES INVOLVED. IT IS A COMPLETELY CLOSED SUBJECT AND BEST NOT REFERRED TO AGAIN ON ANY LEVEL.
BYROADE

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NNN

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